Washington State Department of
Health

SECURES
Secure Electronic Communication, Urgent Response & Exchange System

What Is It?
The Washington State Secure Electronic Communication, Urgent Response and Exchange System (WA-SECURES) is a web site that will allow Washington public health and emergency response partners to communicate and collaborate securely and quickly.

This web site's features include:

- **Secure Emergency Call Down.** The system assures that public health colleagues can contact each other on a secure web site, receive accurate and up-to-date information, and communicate during a bioterrorism or other public health emergency on a 24-hours-a-day/7-days-a-week basis.

  - **Track down.** Public health officials can be assured of contact in an emergency because the WA-SECURES system uses multiple methods of communication including voice, email, and text messaging, to notify recipients of a message.

- **Health Alerts.** The system will distribute health alerts from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Washington State, to state and local public health and emergency response workers. Users will have the ability to hold secure online discussions with each other, as well as send targeted and broadcast e-mail, pages, and text messages.

- **Document Collaboration** – The system allows users to securely collaborate on and share documents; making SECURES a system that can be used for preparedness planning as well as emergency response.

- **Public Health Directory** – The system features a contact directory for emergency preparedness, and public health personnel. The directory is housed centrally on SECURES, but is locally maintained and administered and is designed to meet Public Health Information Network (PHIN) standards.

The first phase of SECURES will be implemented in Fall 2004. That phase will focus on the emergency call-down function by moving Health Alert distribution to SECURES.

For more information about PHIMS, contact the Help Desk at 360-236-4458 or toll-free at 877-889-3377.